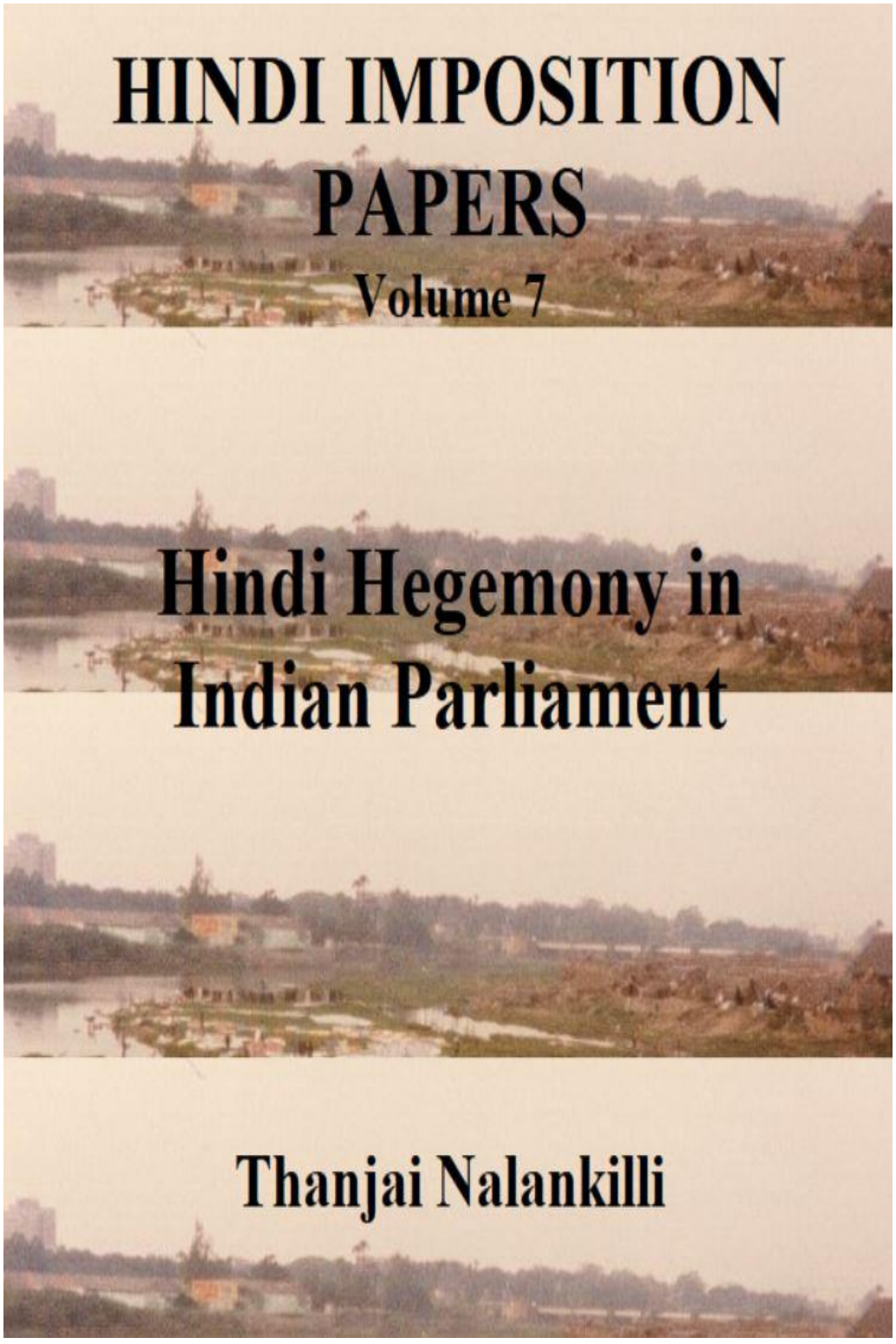

HINDI IMPOSITION
PAPERS
Volume 7
Hindi Hegemony in
Indian Parliament
Thanjai Nalankilli

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Volume 7
Hindi Hegemony in Indian Parliament

edited by
Thanjai Nalankilli

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Preface

Thanjai Nalankilli

India is country of multiple languages, many of them spoken by millions of people and each has its own region of dominance (state). Presently 22 languages are listed in the Indian constitution (as of 2018). Yet only English and Hindi WERE allowed in the parliament for many years. Requests to allow the other Indian languages were rejected.

Thanks to the efforts of some Members of Parliaments, finally limited use of other Indian languages was allowed. Special thanks should go to Mr. Kumari Anandan (Congress Party) from Tamil Nadu who worked tirelessly in this endeavor; he was evicted from parliament many times for his protests within the parliament. He is one of the rare Congress Party members who stood for Tamil.

What is the language situation in parliament today (2018)?

1. All parliamentary proceedings are translated into English and Hindi live to members. So if a minister or Member of Parliament (MP) does not know English or Hindi, he/she cannot understand what was going on. So non-Hindi regions are forced to elect only those who know English or Hindi, while Hindi people can elect those who know only their mother tongue Hindi.

2. Ministers are not allowed to speak or answer questions in any language other than English and Hindi. Any minister, however brilliant he/she is, has to either sit like a dummy without participating in the discussions or just do not attend parliament.

3. Members of Parliament may speak or ask questions in any of the 22 languages listed in the Indian constitution, provided they give a copy of their speech/question at least a day ahead. They cannot ask or say anything else except in English or Hindi. This is a serious limitation.

4. There are several full-time translators for Hindi-to-English and English-to-Hindi translations. Other languages have only part-time translators, and many of those positions remained unfilled, presumably very few are willing to accept part-time jobs.

The above Hindi-imperial activities are said to be as per Indian constitution, laws and parliamentary rules, and thus legal. We want language equality in parliament. Amend the constitution, pass laws and enact rules that would **give non-Hindi parliamentarians the same privileges and rights as Hindi parliamentarians**. Technology exists to use all the languages in parliament. European Parliament has 24 languages and members can speak in any one of them and they are translated into all other languages live. A small fraction of the money spent on Hindi by the Indian government would fund the necessary system and personnel to have all 22 languages listed in the constitution as working languages of the parliament.

The following articles shed more light into the problem. The last two articles listed in this page are not directly related to Hindi imperialism in the Indian parliament. They discuss Indian government efforts to make Hindi an official language of the **United Nations** (UN). India is even willing to fund the cost of it from Indian taxpayer monies. Remember, even today Indian representatives can speak in Hindi with advanced notice and have the speech translated live in the UN official languages. In fact, former Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee spoke in Hindi and it was translated live in the UN official languages. What Indian government wants is that Indian representatives can speak in Hindi without advanced notice. I say to India, "First allow your Members of Parliament (MP) speak in their language without advanced notice". Make all Indian languages listed in the constitution official languages of the Indian Parliament before asking United Nations, the "World Parliament", to make Hindi an official language there.

(First Published: April 2010; Updated: October 2018)

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1.
Hindi in Parliament

P. Unny

ABBREVIATIONS

AIADMK - All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
MP - Member of Parliament

On November 22, 2007, AIADMK Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu Dr. V. Maitreyan started speaking in Tamil. Non-Tamil members of parliament (MPs) could not understand it because there was no one to translate Dr. Maitreyan's speech to Hindi and English as was required by parliamentary procedures. After some shouting from Tamilnadu MPs for lack of translation, Dr. Maitreyan spoke in English and it was translated to Hindi for the benefit of Hindi speaking MPs.

On November 27, 2007, another AIADMK Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu Dr. K. Malaisamy spoke in Tamil. Mr. Santosh Bagrodia who was chairing the parliament (upper house, Rajya Sabha) told Dr. Malaisamy that he could not speak in Tamil because he did not obtain prior permission to speak in Tamil (Hindi MPs can speak in their mother tongue without any prior permission.) Even if Dr. Malaisamy had obtained prior permission, no non-Tamil MP would have understood it because there was no one to translate it from Tamil to Hindi and English.

In fact both Dr. Maithreyan and Dr. Malaisamy chose to speak in Tamil because they wanted to dramatically bring out the point that the position of Tamil translator was vacant for 11 months. Telugu translator position was also vacant. Indian Government's explanation was that it had placed advertisements and no one had applied. Why was no one applying? Because it was a part-time position. Not many people would go to an expensive city like New Delhi for a part-time position. Indian government employs many full time Hindi-English translators in parliament but when it comes to non-Hindi languages it suddenly becomes stingy and wants to hire only part-time translators. All languages should be equal in parliament. If a Hindi MP can speak in Hindi whenever he/she wants without prior notice and permission from the speaker, why should non-Hindi MPs have to give prior notice and get permission to speak in their mother tongue? Why this second class status for non-Hindi languages? The problem can be easily rectified by hiring full time translators for all languages (in the same way there are several full time translators for Hindi); these translators would then be available to translate whenever an MP wants to speak in his/her mother tongue. When it comes to Hindi money is no object, when it comes to other languages, Indian Government wants to cut every Rupee.

(First Published: May 2008)

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2.
Arrogance of Hindi Politicians (Hindi Arrogance in Indian Parliament)

P. Unny

"There should be a ban on English address in parliament." - Mulayam Singh Yadav, Samajwadi Party (Times of India. November 17, 2013)

We applaud Hindi politicians for their love for their mother tongue. However this is an arrogant, discriminatory statement. India is a multi-lingual country with about two dozens major languages, each spoken by millions of people. Situation in the parliament of this multi-lingual country is this. Hindi politicians can talk in Hindi in parliament whenever they want. There are Hindi-English translators available to translate their speeches to English; similarly English speeches are translated to Hindi (but not to the other languages). Other language Members of Parliament (MPs) have to give prior notice to speak in their mother tongue so that translators can be brought in. Why not have a translator for each language available at all times? Non-Hindi peoples also pay taxes to Government of India.

In August 2013, Telugu Desam Party MP (Upper House of Parliament) from Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Nandamuri Harikrishna, attempted to speak in Telugu on an important topic affecting his state, and the deputy chair of the house tried to stop him because he did not give prior notice. Nandamuri Harikrishna retorted,

"**Asking me to speak in English or Hindi is an insult** not only to me but for the entire Telugu speaking people". He added, "Oh God, What a sad day for Andhra Pradesh... nobody is there to translate the speech in Parliament." Deccan Herald, August 12, 2013).

We, the non-Hindi citizens of India, ask that a translator for each of the languages listed in the Indian constitution be hired full time and be available in parliament at all times. Like Hindi MPs, non-Hindi MPs should also be able to speak in their mother tongue without prior notice. Non-Hindi peoples pay taxes too.

(First Published: March 2014)

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3.
Members of Parliament Stare Dumbfounded as Indian President Addresses Them in Hindi

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 11 also because of its relevance there.]

President of the Republic of India, Pratibha Patil, addressed the parliament in Hindi on February 22, 2010. That is nothing unusual. Some past presidents have addressed the parliament in Hindi, and some others in English. What was unusual is that the president's Hindi address was not translated to English as was customary. (In past years, president's address to parliament in Hindi was always translated to English, and if in English translated to Hindi.) Members of Parliament (MPs) who did not know Hindi, many did not, sat there as their president spoke what sounded to them as gibberish.

It is a violation of the Indian constitution and related laws not to translate the President's Hindi address to English. Indian constitution and related laws say that English will continue as the associate official language as long as non-Hindi states want it. Both the president and the speaker violated it. As far as the Hindi politicians who dominate the Indian parliament are concerned, constitutional provisions do not matter when it comes to thrusting Hindi.

Who ordered that no translation of the president's speech be offered? Is it the speaker of the parliament Meira Kumar? Who gave the speaker the authority to flout the constitutional provision? Under what umbrella is she standing protected? Of course, the umbrella of the Hindi politicians who stand united crossing party lines when it comes to Hindi domination.

Hindi politicians are pushing the boundaries of Hindi dominance even further, over and above constitutional provisions. Hindi politician are thrusting Hindi into unwilling non-Hindi throats deeper and deeper. Message is clear. Do you want to participate in the Indian political arena fully? Learn Hindi. Anyone aspiring for the most powerful position in India, the prime minister post, better learn Hindi. [President is theoretically higher than the prime minister, but it is a ceremonial position with no real power.]

Former Congress President Kamaraj from Tamil Nadu, when asked about whether he wants to be the prime minister, said, "I cannot become the prime minister. I neither know English nor Hindi". That was in the 1960s. If he were alive today he would have said, "I cannot become the prime minister. I do not know Hindi". Hindi dominance had increased during the past decades.

Prime Minister Deva Gowda, from non-Hindi Karnatak State, asked his aids to translate his major speeches into Hindi and write them in Kannada script. He then read those speeches without really knowing what he was saying.

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, from the non-Hindi state of Andhra, put together a political coalition called United National Progressive Alliance (UNPA), and one day hopes to become the prime minister. One of the things he did to "qualify for the position" was to learn Hindi at his old age.

Indian Home Minister P. Chidambaram, who held the finance portfolio earlier, was considered by some as a potential candidate for Prime Minister after the next parliamentary election. It seems that his lack of Hindi knowledge would hinder that possibility. The Expressbuzz web site, owned by the influential Indian Express family of news papers, wrote on July 27, 2010, "Whenever there was discussion on Chidambaram as a possible prime ministerial candidate, his lack of familiarity with Hindi was seen as a big minus". **A capable minister, who has headed two important ministries, home and finance, may not be able to become Indian prime minister because he does not know Hindi.** This is the power of Hindi politicians.

ADDENDUM:

I remember another incidence of Hindi supremacy and Hindi arrogance that appeared in the January 10, 2010 issue of the Indian newspaper "The Telegraph" published from West Bengal. This is the excerpt from a lengthy article on languages and politics. "A.R. Venkatachalapathy of the Madras Institute of Development Studies tells me how insulted he felt when, at a meeting attended by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (a Tamil), soon after he became president of India, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan had stopped him from responding to a request for a few words in Tamil by saying, “He is the president of India. He cannot speak in Tamil.”

[POSTSCRIPT: I want to make it clear that I am opposed to Indian constitution's "two language formula" (that is, official language Hindi and associate official language English). I am for English as the sole official language. Having said that, the point of this article is that even the Indian constitution's two-language formula is violated by the Indian government thus further elevating Hindi and further benefiting Hindi people. Former Tamilnadu chief minister C. N. Annadurai explained why English is sufficient as the official language of India, through an interesting little story. You may read the story in Violume 6, Chapter 2].

(First Published: April 2010)

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4.
Mr. Alagiri Goes to New Delhi
(Language Discrimination in Parliament)

Thanjai Nalankilli

1. What Happened?

M. K. Alagiri from Tamil Nadu became India's Chemicals and Fertilizers minister in mid-2009. He does not know Hindi and his English proficiency is limited. He avoided attending parliament because he could not speak in the parliament or fully understand what was going on. Some opposition parliamentarians and his critics ridiculed him saying that he was not doing his job and not competent to be a minister.

It was reported in September 2009 that he asked the speaker of parliament Meira Kumar permission to speak in Tamil [which could be translated to English and Hindi] [The Hindu newspaper: September 15, 2009]. The speaker delayed and delayed making a decision. Alagiri mostly stayed out of parliament during this period. Finally after ten months, in July 2010, Meira Kumar made her decision. **Alagiri's request to speak in Tamil was denied** because the Indian constitution says that ministers reply to questions in English or Hindi. She said that Alagiri could answer the primary question by reading out the reply in English and the supplementary questions could be answered by his deputy minister Srikant Jena [The Hindu newspaper: July 18, 2010]. In essence, Alagiri would play the part of a "dummy" reading a reply in English [obviously written by someone else] and secondary questions would be answered by his deputy in English or Hindi [Alagiri may not understand what his deputy was saying]. Why go about this roundabout route which essentially makes Alagiri no more than a showroom doll in parliament. He could as well stay out of parliament because he is not contributing anything in the parliament--just reading an already written reply in English and sitting there the rest of the time not fully understanding what was going on.

A Hindi region minister who knows only his/her mother tongue Hindi could fully participate in parliamentary affairs but a non-Hindi minister who knows only the mother tongue is reduced to a dummy or a showroom doll in parliament. [The foregoing sentence is not meant to insult minister Alagiri. We are merely pointing out the discriminatory nature of the rules of the parliament.] Speaker Meira Kumar could have handled the situation in a way that would not hurt anyone but allow Alagiri to carryout his ministerial responsibilities. Translate minister Alagiri's Tamil reply to English which in turn is translated to Hindi. After all non-Hindi MPs' questions in their mother tongue are translated to Hindi and English. Do the same for non-Hindi ministers' answers also. Speaker refused to do so citing that the Indian constitution does not say that ministers can speak in any language other than Hindi or English.

2. Commentary

Constitution could have been amended to allow non-Hindi ministers to speak in their mother tongue, if they cannot speak in Hindi or English. **Indian constitution has been amended over a hundred times** in the past 60 years. Why not amend it once more? Because Hindi politicians do not want other languages getting equal status to Hindi. There is no other reason.

We are not saying violate the constitution; we are saying, "**Amend the constitution to allow non-Hindi ministers to speak in their mother tongue**". Some politicians say that there are too many languages to let ministers to talk in their own mother tongues. Members can talk in about 20 languages in the European parliament. Number of languages listed in the Indian constitution is also about the same. So what is the problem? The technology is there. But Hindi politicians do not want to give up their privileged status.

If a Hindi minister can speak in his/her mother tongue in parliament, then a Tamil minister should also be able to speak in his/her mother tongue. The technology is available as evidenced by European Parliament proceedings.

"**If Hindi were to become the official language of India, Hindi-speaking people will govern us. We will be treated like third-rate citizens**". - C. N. Annadurai, Former Tamil Nadu State Chief Minister (Speech at a Public Meeting on April 29, 1963)

First Update (July 2914)

After the 2014 election, the new minister of external affairs and the minister of water resources took their oath in Sanskrit [New York Times: June 17, 2014]. Sanskrit is not an official language of India; it has the same status as Tamil in the constitution. Obviously there is no constitutional impediment to ministers using a language other than Hindi or English. So we wonder why Ms. Meira Kumar prevented Mr. Alagiri from speaking in Tamil? Seems like discrimination against all Indian languages except Hindi and Sanskrit.

Second Update (September 2014)

It was reported on August 8, 2014, that Minister of State for Commerce Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman was allowed to answer a Tamil question in Tamil in parliament [the Economic Times: August 8, 2014]. This is a one-time deal to assuage the mounting criticism in Tamil Nadu against some Hindi imposition actions of the new Indian government [Reference 1]. Ms. Sitharaman knows English well and has been answering questions in parliament in English all along. This is just a charade to takes Tamil people's attention of the strident Hindi imposition activities by the newly elected (2014) Indian government. [I am writing this sentence in July 2017--almost 3 years after the above incident. In these 22 months, neither Ms. Sitharaman nor any other minister spoke in any language other than Hindi or English. This proves our point that the 2014 Tamil use was just a ruse to divert attention from Hindi imposition activities.]

We have seen the bait and switch tactic before. There was mounting pressure in Tamil Nadu that Tamil be allowed in Madras High Court. One judge allowed Tamil in one case. Months later when another lawyer used Tamil, another judge refused it quoting rules and regulations. What we want are laws or parliamentary rules enacted guaranteeing that ministers can speak in the mother tongue without seeking permission from anybody; the same right Hindi ministers have. We are not begging for favours, we are demanding our right.

(First Published: October 2010; Last Update: September 2014)

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5.
Hindi Extremism and Violation of Constitution in Indian Parliament

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 11 also because of its relevance there.]

OUTLINE

Abbreviations
1. Technical Difficulties in English Translation
2. Extra-Constitutional Hindi Chauvinist Demand
3. Analysis and Commentary
3.1 Hindi Chauvinism at its Extreme
3.2 Speaker Violated the Constitution

ABBREVIATIONS

BJP - Bharatiya Janata Party
DMK - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
MDMK - Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
MP - Member of Parliament

1. Technical Difficulties in English Translation

Indian parliament, New Delhi: On August 13, 2010, a member of parliament, Hansraj Ahir, asked a question in Hindi. Bharatsinh Solanki, Minister of State for Power, replied in Hindi. It is customary that all Hindi speeches are translated to English and English speeches to Hindi. But the Hindi-to-English translation was not available at that time due to "technical difficulties". So members who did not know Hindi were at a loss as to what was going on. Two MPs from Tamilnadu, A. Ganesamurthy (MDMK) and T. R. Baalu (DMK), said that they could not understand the proceedings. Speaker of the parliament Meira Kumar said that the technical difficulties would be fixed soon, but she did not ask the minister to reply in English so everyone can understand his reply (Only the Hindi-to-English translation was not available; the English-to-Hindi translation was on). She could also have stopped (adjourned) the proceedings until the English translation problem was corrected, but she did not. T. R. Baalu responded by saying that he could not sit there like a deaf person and started to walk out of the parliament. His fellow DMK MPs also started to do so. Even at this point the speaker did not ask the minister to respond in English or adjourn the parliament. It seems it was alright with her if these MPs walked out because they could not understand Hindi.

2. Extra-Constitutional Hindi Chauvinist Demand

At this point, Minister of Power Sushilkumar Shinde asked Bharatsinh Solanki to reply in English and the latter started to answer in English. Some Hindi MPs belonging to BJP stood up and shouted unitedly that the reply should be in Hindi because Hansraj Ahir asked the question in Hindi. Speaker Meira Kumar could have ruled that the minister may reply in Hindi or English as stipulated in the constitution. She did not. At this point Bharatsinh Solanki said that he would answer in both Hindi in English. But a member of parliament from Bihar, Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav, said, "The minister must answer in Hindi. We should respect our national language Hindi." Only at this point did speaker Meira Kumar interfere. She adjourned the parliament for 15 minutes to fix the Hindi-to-English translation problem. The problem was fixed and parliament reconvened after 15 minutes.

Since fixing the Hindi-to-English translation problem seems to be so simple and she knew it (after all she had known that it would take just 15 minutes), why did she not adjourn the parliament when the Tamil MPs, T. R. Baalu and A. Ganesamurthy told her of the problem? When Baalu and a number of Tamil MPs started walking out of the parliament for the valid reason of not understanding the proceedings, why did she not adjourn the parliament for 15 minutes? She chose not to be bothered with the Tamil MPs' valid complaint. Constitution says that parliamentary proceedings should be in Hindi and English.

When the parliament reconvened, Speaker Meira Kumar apologized for the inconvenience to some members. She asked all members not to insult the national language Hindi. Can she show us where the constitution says that Hindi is India's national language? She cannot, because the constitution does not say so. Also who insulted Hindi? A member of parliament asking for English translation or a minister replying in English is not an insult to Hindi. They are approved by the constitution.

3. Analysis and Commentary

3.1 Hindi Chauvinism at its Extreme

We need to look carefully into the extra-constitutional demands made by some Hindi MPs and Speaker Meira Kumar's virtual surrender to those demands. First of all, these Hindi MPs insisted that the minister answer the Hindi question in Hindi (although the English answer would be simultaneously translated to Hindi); there is no constitutional basis for it. When the minister acquiesces them and tried to answer the question in both Hindi and English (in view of the fact the English translation was not working), those Hindi MPs again protested that he should answer only in Hindi. This is like a dominant dog getting its flesh and not allowing other dogs have even a bone. What these MPs really want is to get rid of English totally and have everything done in Hindi only. They are trying to do this one step at a time. Will this not inconvenience those MPs who do not know Hindi? As for as these MPs are concerned, anyone who does not know Hindi is not Indian and should not be a member of parliament. Actually this view was expressed explicitly as early as 1946.

On December 10, 1946, R.V. Dhulekar moved an amendment in the Indian Constitutional Assembly. When he began speaking in Hindustani, the Chairman reminded him that many members did not know the language. Dhulekar replied, **"People who do not know Hindustani have no right to stay in India. People who are present in this House to fashion a Constitution for India and do not know Hindustani are not worthy to be members of this Assembly. They had better leave."** [Constitution Assembly Debates-Official Report, Volume 1 (p 26-27), Lok Sabha Secretariat, 1988]

This is Hindi chauvinism at its extreme.

3.2 Speaker Violated the Constitution

Speaker Meira Kumar violated the Indian constitution in this single incident in 4 ways: (1) She allowed parliament proceedings to go on without English translation which is required under the constitution. (2) She did not stop some Hindi MPs demanding that the minister reply Hindi questions in Hindi. Constitution allows ministers to reply in English irrespective of the language of the question. (3) She called Hindi the national language of India. Constitution does not say so. There is no law that made Hindi India's national language. (4) She termed asking for English translation or a minister replying to a Hindi question in English as insult to the "national language". Both asking for English translation or a minister replying to a Hindi question in English are allowed by constitutional provisions. Speaker is supposed to be impartial across party lines. She should also be impartial across language divides and regional boundaries. Speaker Meira Kumar failed in this respect.

(First Published: December 2010)

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6.
An Additional Special Privilege for Hindi Speaking Members of the Indian Parliament

P.Unny

On August 18, 2003, a member of the Indian Parliament from the Bengali speaking state of West Bengal, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, was speaking in parliament on a no-confidence motion. He started the speech in Hindi, and then switched to English. After his allotted time was over, he asked the speaker of the parliament for a few more minutes to speak. The speaker, Mr. Manohar Joshi, told Mr. Chatterjee that he could have the additional time if he agreed to speak in Hindi. So a new privilege, a new norm, has been established in the Indian parliament: Those who speak in Hindi have more of a right to speak in parliament than those who speak in any other language including English. (As we would explain later, there are already severe limitations if a non-Hindi Member of Parliament wants to speak in his/her mother tongue.)

How foolish of us to think that every citizen is equal in this "Indian Union". How foolish of us to think that all members of parliament are equal in the Indian parliament, irrespective of which part of this "Indian Union" they come from. Now we know better. There are now two classes of members of parliament: Hindi speakers and non-Hindi speakers. Hindi speakers have more of a right to speak than others.

I was born and educated in a non-Hindi state, Kerala. I thought that I am equal to those from Hindi states like Uttar Pradesh. I thought that those we select and send to the Indian parliament from Kerala have the same rights and privileges as those selected by citizens from Hindi states like Uttar Pradesh. But, now, I realize that it is not true. Members of parliament from Kerala have severe limitations if they want to speak in our mother tongue Malayalam. Now there is some additional limitation placed even if they speak in English. They get less time to speak than those speaking in Hindi. So the members of parliament we, the Malayalam-speaking citizens of India, send to the Indian parliament to represent us have less of a right to speak (less time to speak) about the needs and concerns of us, Malayalam-speaking Keralites. Malayalis and other non-Hindi speakers are indeed second class citizens in this "Indian Union".

"Hindi is as much alien to South Indians as English is to Indians" said Pattom Thanu Pillai, Former Chief Minister of Kerala State (Kerala was called Travancore-Cochin when he was the Chief Minister).

SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES:

From the very inception of the Indian parliament in 1950, Hindi members had a special privilege over and above non-Hindi members. They can speak in their mother tongue whenever they want. Others have to speak in either Hindi or English, both foreign languages to them. If they know neither English nor Hindi, or just want to express themselves in their mother tongue, they have to give one-day notice and get permission

from the speaker of the parliament. But Hindi members can stand up and speak in their mother tongue whenever they please. Non-Hindi members of parliament grudgingly accepted it but now an additional privilege has been bestowed on Hindi speakers.

(First Published: December 2003)

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7.
Indian President's Address to Parliament in Hinglish: Is it Unconstitutional?

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 11 also because of its relevance there.]

OUTLINE

1. Power of Hindi Politicians
2. Is This Unconstitutional and Illegal?
Appendix

1. Power of Hindi Politicians

What is Hinglish? English speech/writing mixed with lots of Hindi words or Hindi mixed with lots of English words. We are referring here to English mixed with lots of Hindi words in the context of Indian President's address to parliament.

English version of President Pranab Mukherjee's address to members of parliament in January 2017 contained so many Hindi or Sanskrit words that anyone who does not know Hindi could not understand it fully. We listed 40 such words that appear in the English version of the president's address in the Appendix. I do not know Hindi and I do not understand the meaning of any of those words.

In fact I wonder if President Pranab Mukherjee himself understood what he was reading. He is a Bengali and his knowledge of Hindi is limited. When he was the Finance Minister of India, he told reporters that he could not become the Prime Minister of India because he could not speak fluent Hindi (India Today; May 15, 2009). We remember a former prime minister, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda, who knew even less Hindi than Mr. Mukherjee, had his 1996 Independence Day address written by someone in Hindi, then had the Hindi words written down in his mother tongue Kannada alphabet, had a Hindi teacher coach him how to pronounce the Hindi words correctly and then read the speech on independence day. The power of Hindi politicians in Indian politics is appalling.

2. Is This Unconstitutional and Illegal?

I am not a lawyer but I wonder if mixing so many Hindi words in English violates the constitution of India and the language acts? The purpose of English documents is to communicate with peoples, businesses and state governments who do not know Hindi. Those who do not know Hindi cannot understand the president's speech and thus it seems like a violation of the Indian constitution. I hope that some lawyers would look into it, and if necessary file a lawsuit. State governments may also act to stop this practice of infusing Hindi into English documents. We should contact our elected representatives to protect our rights.

APPENDIX

English version of Indian President's address to members of the parliament in January 2017 contains so many Hindi or Sanskrit words. Here are some examples. It is not a complete list of Hindi/Sanskrit words in the president's address.

1. Aawas Yojana
2. Ashtalakshmi
3. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
4. Bharatiya Jan Aushadi Pariyojana
5. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana
6. Digidhan Abhiyaan
7. Divyang Jan
8. Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat
9. Fasal Bima Yojana
10. Garib
11. Har Haath ko Hunar
12. Har Khet ko Panio
13. Jan Dhan to Jan Suraksha
14. Jan-andolan
15. Kaushal Vikas Yojana
16. Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana
17. Kisan
18. Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
19. Mudra Yojana
20. Niramaya Swasthya Bima Yojana
21. Peedit
22. Sabka Saath
23. Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas
24. Sabka Vikas
25. Saha Na Vavatu
26. Saha Nau Bhunaktu
27. Samanvay
28. Samvaad
29. Samvedna
30. Seekho aur kamao
31. Shoshit
32. Shram-eva Jayate
33. Shramik
34. Shramikandyuva
35. Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
36. Ujjwala Yojana
37. Unnat Jyoti
38. UsttadandNai Manzil
39. Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana

40. Vanchit

(First Published: March 2019)

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8.
India: Democracy or Hindi-crazy?

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 12 also because of its relevance there.]

OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Electoral Search and Registration Web Site in Hindi and English Only
3. Indian Government Web Sites and People Participation
4. Non-Hindi Ministers Tongue-Tied
5. Non-Hindi Members of Parliament (the second class representatives of second class citizens)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The website that Indian Government set up to help voters locate polling stations, register to vote, etc. is in English and Hindi only. What about voters who do not know Hindi or English? Non-Hindi citizens cannot express their opinion and make suggestions to the government in their mother tongue on another newly created (2014) government web site but Hindi citizens can. Non-Hindi ministers cannot speak in their mother tongue in parliament but Hindi ministers can. Non-Hindi members of parliament (MPs) can speak or ask questions in mother tongue only if they ask and get permission ahead of time; also, they cannot ask follow-up questions in their mother tongue, but Hindi MPs can speak and ask questions in their mother tongue whenever they want and can also ask follow-up questions in Hindi. In short non-Hindi ministers, MPs and ordinary citizens cannot fully participate in this "democracy" unless they know one of two alien languages Hindi or English. This reduces non-Hindi peoples to second-class citizens. ["Hindi is as much alien to South Indians as English is to Indians" - Pattom Thanu Pillai (Former Chief Minister, Travancore-Cochin which evolved into Kerala State after linguistic reorganization of states in the 1950s)]

1. Introduction

India is widely touted as the largest democracy in the world. Is it truly a democracy? The devil is in the details. We will provide some details in this article.

Democracy is not just majority rule. It may be true in a homogeneous society. However, in a heterogeneous society, whether it has two layers or multiple layers of "heterogeneity", all layers of society should be able to participate in the democratic process without roadblocks and filters. We will illustrate in this article that people who do not know Hindi language are not given the same opportunities to participate in the democratic process as Hindi people.

Let me hasten to add that all adults have a vote irrespective of the language or region. But that is not enough, as discussed in the following sections. A few examples. (Those who read Indian newspapers may have seen the names Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Lok Sabha is the lower house of parliament and Rajya Sabha is the upper houses of parliament.)

2. Electoral Search and Registration Web Site in Hindi and English Only

Indian Government set up a web site to help voters www.electoralsearch.in There you can locate polling stations near your house, register to vote, etc. This site is in Hindi and English only (as of 2016). So only Hindi people can get the information and register in their mother tongue. Others have to know at least one of two alien languages, Hindi or English, if they want to get voting information or register to votes through Internet. This is outrageous in the so-called largest democracy. Another example of Indian government gone Hindi-crazy.

3. Indian Government Web Sites and People Participation

On July 26, 2014, Prime Minister Modi opened a new web site where people can make suggestions and discuss how to better govern the country (http://mygov.nic.in/). Mr. Modi said that the web site "would bridge gap gulf between people and government. Democracy cannot succeed without people's participation in government and this participation should not be limited only during elections". Author of this article visited the web site on July 28, 2014; the web site is in English and Hindi only. So, only people whose mother tongue is Hindi and those non-Hindi citizens who know either Hindi or English can provide suggestions and "participate in the government" (as Mr. Modi called it). So in the same way as non-Hindi ministers and members of parliament (MPs) cannot participate in the Indian parliament fully unless they know Hindi or English, ordinary non-Hindi peoples also cannot "participate in the government" through its web sites unless they know Hindi or English. This is not democracy, this is Hindi-crazy?

Technology to use all Indian languages in this government web site exists. Major private companies like Google and Facebook allow users to write in many dozens of languages. Why is Indian government restricting to just English and Hindi? It is the imperial attitude of Hindi people and politicians. **This is not democracy, this is Hindi-crazy.**

4. Non-Hindi Ministers Tongue-Tied
If you have already read about non-Hindi ministers not allowed to speak in their mother tongue, you may skip to Section 5.

4.1 The Facts

M. K. Alagiri from Tamilnadu became India's Chemicals and Fertilizers minister in mid-2009. He does not know Hindi and his English proficiency is limited.
It was reported in September 2009 that he asked the speaker of parliament Meira Kumar permission to speak in Tamil [which could be translated to English and Hindi] [The

Hindu newspaper: September 15, 2009]. The speaker delayed and delayed making a decision. Alagiri mostly stayed out of parliament during this period. Finally after ten months, in July 2010, Meira Kumar made her decision. **Alagiri's request to speak in Tamil was denied** because the Indian constitution says that ministers reply to questions in English or Hindi She said that Alagiri could answer the primary question by reading out the reply in English and the supplementary questions could be answered by his deputy minister Srikant Jena [The Hindu newspaper: July 18, 2010]. In essence, Alagiri would play the part of a "dummy" reading a reply in English [obviously written by someone else] and secondary questions would be answered by his deputy in English or Hindi.

4.2 Commentary (The Minister Issue)

So non-Hindi peoples could not fully participate in Indian democracy. They have to elect only politicians who could speak Hindi or English. We may be losing the services of brilliant non-Hindi peoples because they could not speak Hindi or English, while any Hindi politician can become a minister knowing only his/her mother tongue Hindi. **This is discriminatory democracy.**

We would accept this practice if there is a practical reason why non-Hindi ministers could speak only in Hindi or English. There is no practical reason. Hire a full-time translator to translate each of the languages listed in the constitution to English. There are many Hindi to English and English to Hindi translators working in parliament. Why not one translator for each of the languages? (22 languages at the time this article is first published) The reason is not practicality; the reason is not money. The reason is the imperial attitude of Hindi politicians and people. **India is no longer a democracy; it has gone Hindi-crazy.**

(POST-SCRIPT: It was reported on August 8, 2014, that Minister of State for Commerce Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman was allowed to answer a Tamil question in Tamil in parliament [the Economic Times: August 8, 2014]. This is a one-time deal to assuage the mounting criticism in Tamil Nadu against some Hindi imposition actions of the new Indian government. We have seen the bait and switch tactic before. There was mounting pressure in Tamil Nadu that Tamil be allowed in Madras High Court. One judge allowed Tamil in one case. Months later when another lawyer used Tamil, another judge refused it quoting rules and regulations. What we want are laws or parliamentary rules enacted guaranteeing that ministers can speak in the mother tongue without having to get permission from anybody; all we want is the same right Hindi ministers have. We are not begging for favours, we are demanding our right.)

5. Non-Hindi Members of Parliament (the second class representatives of second class citizens)
If you have already read about non-Hindi members of parliament have limitations on speaking in their mother tongue, skip this section.

5.1 I cannot hear you!

We have discussed how non-Hindi ministers are tongue-tied in parliament What about members of parliament?

Members of parliament can choose to hear parliamentary procedures in Hindi or English through ear phones. If someone speaks in English, the speech is translated to Hindi by human translators; if someone speaks in Hindi, it is translated to English by human translators. What if a non-Hindi member of parliament (MP) does not know Hindi or English? Too bad. He is out of touch with what is going on. Is it fair? How can such a non-Hindi MP participate in parliament?

We want simultaneous translations into all languages listed in the constitution. It is not at all difficult. This is done in the European Union parliament, with 24 languages. The technology exists. All that is needed is for the Indian government to hire full-time translators in all languages. There are several full time Hindi-English translaors. Why is the government is so stingy when it comes to hiring one full time translator for each language. It is not the money. It is the imperial attitude of Hindi people and politicians. This is not democracy, this is Hindi-crazy.

5.2 I Cannot speak to you!

Can non-Hindi MPs speak in their mother tongue? A non-Hindi member can speak in the mother tongue if he/she gives prior notice and gets permission at least one day ahead. With the permission in pocket, a non-Hindi member can speak or ask a question in mother tongue. Pre-prepared Hindi and English translations of the speech/question is read into the head phones (this is the procedure at the current time). The non-Hindi MP cannot ask a follow-up question in the mother tongue; may ask follow-up questions only in Hindi or English. This is unfair because follow-up questions are sometimes necessary. Also non-Hindi MPs cannot spontaneously express their views in the mother tongue on an on-going debate because prior notice must be given and permission obtained before speaking in any language other than Hindi or English. In summary, non-Hindi MPs who know neither Hindi nor English cannot fully represent their constituencies in parliament. This is unfair.

This unfair situation could be easily rectified by hiring one full time translator for each language. But only Hindi translators are available all the time in parliament and ready to translate to English. We want the same for non-Hindi languages also. We pay taxes too.

(First Published: November 2014; Updated October 2016)

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9.
Objection to Hindi in United Nations

K. Chezhian

[Although this article is not directly related to Hindi supremacy in Indian Parliament, we include it in this volume because it shows the hypocrisy of the Indian government. While the Indian government refuses to allow non-Hindi ministers to speak in their mother tongue, it is making every effort to make Hindi an official language of the United Nations (UN) so Hindi ministers can speak in their mother tongue at the UN.
This chapter is included in "Volume 8: Hindi Propagation in Foreign Countries" also because of its relevance there also.]

OUTLINE

1. A Request to Make Hindi an Official Language of United Nations
2. Our Objection to Hindi in the United Nations
3. Hindi Imposition and Language Discrimination within India Should Stop First
4. Hindi is not the Language of a Billion People
5. Opposition to Hindi Imposition in India
6. How about Indian Peoples' Mother Tongues in Indian Parliament?
7. What is the Benefit of Making Hindi an Official Language at the United Nations?
8. Our Request to the United Nations

1. A Request to Make Hindi an Official Language of United Nations

The Eighth World Hindi Conference in New York City in July 2007, organized by the Indian Government External Affairs Ministry and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, asked the United Nations (UN) to make Hindi an official language. Indian Government said that it would make immediate diplomatic moves to achieve this. (The next two paragraphs are rather light-hearted and you may skip the next two paragraphs to move on to a serious discussion of the issue.)

India's Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. Anand Sharma said that the Eighth World Hindi Conference resolution sends a clear signal when more than 1,000 delegates speak with one voice, something which no other country could achieve till date. It is a rather ridiculous statement on the part of Mr. Sharma. Any country or, for that matter, any language group can bring in a 1000 people (or 10,000 people or 100,000 people) to pass a resolution asking United Nations to make its language an official language at the United nations. It is not a big achievement; it cannot be called an achievement at all. Within 24 hours I can gather 1000 Tamils and pass a resolution requesting United Nations to make Tamil an official language. I am sure my brothers and sisters speaking Bengali or Telugu or Kannada or Malayalam or Urdu or Swahili or Vietnamese or Portuguese or Polish can do the same. It does not mean anything.

Having said that in light-hearted response to the rather grandiose statement made by India's Minister of State for External Affairs, let us seriously look into the resolution seeking to make Hindi an official language of the United Nations.

Indian government's efforts to make Hindi an official language at the United Nations is continuing. Here is a news item from 2015. Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Member of Parliament (Congress Party), said that India has enough money to bear expenses for making Hindi an official language of United Nations. According to an Indian government official, it would cost about cost 47 million US Dollars per year. He added that India paying the money alone is not enough; two-thirds of the member countries have to vote for Hindi and Indian government is working on getting the necessary votes (Times of India; September 14, 2015).

2. Our Objection to Hindi in the United Nations

This writer is from Tamil Nadu, a state in the Indian Union. Tamil people have opposed and continue to oppose making Hindi the official language of the Indian Union on the grounds that Hindi is alien to them and making it the official language discriminates them in employment and other areas. In spite of this opposition, not only from Tamilnadu but also from some other non-Hindi states, Hindi is being imposed on them steadily and systematically. What Tamil people fear (as well as some other non-Hindi peoples) is that recognizing Hindi as an official language of the United Nations would embolden Indian government to continue with more vigor Hindi imposition and language discrimination within India. Stop the Hindi imposition and language discrimination within India first.

3. Hindi Imposition and Language Discrimination within India Should Stop First

Making Hindi a United Nations official language is a privilege, not a right. Hindi speakers should earn that privilege by correcting the current discriminatory language policy of the Indian Government. United Nations, if it ever were to seriously consider Hindi as an official language, should ask India to stop Hindi imposition and language discrimination. Indian Government often says that there is no Hindi imposition and Hindi would never be imposed. These are empty words; the **truth is that Hindi imposition and language discrimination is part of life in non-Hindi regions of India**. United Nations should consider the possibility of making Hindi an official language only **after each linguistic state of the Indian Union certifies by popular vote that there is no Hindi imposition or language discrimination in India**.

4. Hindi is not the Language of a Billion People

The call to make Hindi an official language of the United Nations comes essentially from the 400 million or so Hindi speakers and the Hindi politicians who dominate the Indian parliament because of their numbers there. This call is not from the entire one billion plus population of India. Couple of hundred million non-Hindi speakers from states like Gujarat and Bihar may support it or may not care one way or other but at least a couple of

hundred million surely oppose it until Hindi imposition and language discrimination stops within India.

This should be clearly understood. Hindi is not the language of the one billion Indian population as it is often falsely projected. It is the **language of only about 400 million people residing in the north-central region of India**. About half the Indian population does not understand Hindi and attempts to teach them is considered an imposition by many of them, especially in the deep south and east. We are afraid that elevation of Hindi as an official language of the United Nations would strengthen Hindi imposition and language discrimination within India.

5. Opposition to Hindi Imposition in India

Opposition to Hindi imposition and language discrimination does not come from "some Tamil fanatics" as many Hindi speakers would like people to believe. Opposition to Indian Government's discriminatory language policy comes from the entire Tamil population of about 60 million people, more than the population of many countries in the United Nations. **The legally elected Tamil Nadu State Government not only passed a resolution opposing Hindi as the official language of India, it also removed Hindi as a subject in the tens of thousands of schools under its control to show its opposition.** Not only the ruling party in the state, but also the main opposition party as well as most of the smaller parties are highly critical of Indian Government's language policy. The mass uprising of Tamil Nadu in January-February 1965 in opposition to India's language policy is unprecedented and surpasses any demonstration against British rule in the state [Volume 3; Chapters 1 and 3]. There were no more massive agitations after that because the government crushed it with an iron fist, bringing in troops and police from other states and killing well over a hundred unarmed Tamil youths in just 5 days during the second week of February 1965 (there were also a few deaths in the preceding weeks). Agitation was called off and Hindi imposition continues with no more massive protests.

Opposition is not limited to Tamil people either, some other non-speaking states also oppose it but less vehemently. If people in the southern and eastern states are asked to vote on the issue, they would vote against Hindi as India's official language. **Will the Indian Government hold such a vote and prove to the world that Hindi is accepted throughout the Indian Union?**

6. How about Indian Peoples' Mother Tongues in Indian Parliament?

Currently Members of Parliament can speak only in Hindi or English at the Indian parliament unless they give notify the speaker one-day notice of their intention to speak. Even with notification, they will not be allowed to ask secondary questions in their mother tongue. I suggest that the Indian government spend the crores of Rupees it is willing to give the United Nations to make Hindi there, to hire full-time translators for all Indian languages (not just Hindi) in parliament. Then peoples' representatives (members of parliament) can fully participate in the democratic process of parliamentary affairs. Now good leaders from non-Hindi areas hesitate to contest parliamentary elections

because they cannot effectively represent the people there. More information on how Non-Hindi Indian languages are ignored and sidelined in the Indian parliament is discussed in Volume 7; Chapters 1 to 7.

7. What is the Benefit of Making Hindi an Official Language at the United Nations?

Who will benefit? A few Hindi speakers would be hired as translators at the United Nations. What other benefit? Hindi people can boast that their language is used at the United Nations. Hindi pride. Why should non-Hindi peoples' taxes be used for the pride of Hindi people? It is not just. It is not fair.

8. Our Request to the United Nations

Under these circumstances, we plead to the United Nations not to consider India's request to make Hindi an official language until it corrects its discriminatory language policy within India. Only after the people of each non-Hindi state certify through popular vote that they are satisfied with Indian Government's language policy should United Nations consider Indian Government request. If and when the Indian Governments rectifies its discriminatory language policy to the satisfaction of all the non-Hindi states, Tamil people would have no objection to making Hindi an official language of the United Nations (UN).

(First Published: September 2007; Updated September 2018)

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10.
India Wants Hindi Everywhere in the United Nations - Why We Oppose?

Thanjai Nalankilli

[Although this article is not directly related to Hindi supremacy in Indian Parliament, we include it in this volume because it shows the hypocrisy of the Indian government. While the Indian government is asking United Nations make twitter and other social media posts in Hindi, most of Indian government web sites and social media posts are in English and Hindi only (ignoring all other Indian languages). UN should not use Hindi in any of its social media posts until India uses all Indian languages in its posts and websites. Do not indirectly support language discrimination within India.

This chapter is included in "Volume 8: Hindi Propagation in Foreign Countries" also because of its relevance there also.]

OUTLINE

Abbreviations
1. Introduction
2. Guided Tour of the UN in Hindi is Unnecessary
3. Hindi Twitter Feeds from United Nations
4. Practice Multilingualism within India First
5. Opposition to Hindi Imposition in India
6. A Request to the United Nations
7. What We, the People, Can Do?

ABBREVIATIONS

ATM - Automated Teller Machines
MP - Member of Parliament
UN - United Nations
US, USA - United States of America

1. Introduction

Indian government has been trying to make Hindi an official language of the United Nations (UN) for many years but has not succeeded yet [Chapter 8 of this volume]. So India is trying to push Hindi into the United Nations little by little through back doors and side doors.

2. Guided Tour of the UN in Hindi is Unnecessary

India has been asking United Nations to conduct its tours of the UN head quarters in New York City in Hindi also in addition to the 11 languages it already uses. India reiterated its request again in October 2018.

Deepak Misra, a member of the Indian Mission, told the UN General Assembly committee dealing with special political matters, "The guided tour of UN has been very popular with Indian tourists to New York and, as highlighted by our delegations last year. We urge the addition of guided tour in Hindi, India's official language, to facilitate the tourists" (Indo Asian News Service; October 20, 2018).

I, a non-Hindi Indian citizen, want to point out **several misleading and false information in Mr. Misra's statement**. Mr. Misra said that the tour is popular with Indian tourists to New York. May be true. But the question is, "do those tourists require Hindi tours?" The answer is an overwhelming "no". Those who come to United States of America (USA, US) for study or business know English; this is one hundred percent true. Only VERY wealthy Indians can afford to come to US for sightseeing tours. Almost all of them have a working knowledge of English, enough to understand a guided tour of the UN. English is taught in all schools in India. Will India provide the number of people from India who visited US for sightseeing? It would be very small. Even smaller would be the number of them who took the UN guided tour. Number of those who do not know English would be a tiny fraction of the Indian tourists to US. In essence India is asking United Nations to conduct guided tours in Hindi for the benefit of, may be, 10 people per year who really need a Hindi narrative.

If there is no practical need for Hindi tours, why is the Indian mission wasting its resources to repeatedly request Hindi tours and even willing to pay for it? It is to stoke the Hindi ego and Hindi pride of Hindi people of India. I did not say "Indian pride", I said "Hindi pride". Most non-Hindi peoples of India do not want Hindi in their own states but tolerate it because the Indian central government, dominated by Hindi politicians, has the power. In 2017, when Indian government added Hindi in Highway milestones, protesters in the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka blacked them out. When Bengaluru Metro (Karnataka) added Hindi to name boards, protests erupted in the city, police had to be deployed to stop the protests. Protests stopped only after the government removed Hindi from name boards. **When its own non-Hindi people do not want Hindi in their states, why is India pushing for Hindi in the United Nations?**

3. Hindi Twitter Feeds from United Nations

Because of the repeated requests from India to use Hindi in its services, United Nations started sending Hindi twitter feeds from July 2018. We wish that United Nations asked Indian government to issue its Twitter messages in all 22 Indian languages listed in the constitution, and not just Hindi and English. Also publish all Indian government websites in all Indian languages, and not just Hindi and English. Over 95% of government websites are in Hindi and English only.

We wish UN would stop the Hindi twitter feeds until Indian government releases all its own twitter feeds in the 22 languages listed in the Indian constitution. Many of these languages are the mother tongue of tens of millions of people, each more than the population of many UN member countries.

Twitter feeds in Hindi is not a right, it is a privilege. It should not be awarded to a country that discriminates and disrespects the languages of its own people. Suspend the twitter feeds until India does not discriminates the languages of India, many of them older than Hindi.

4. Practice Multilingualism within India First

Pressing for Hindi tours at the United Nations, Mr. Deepak Misra, a member of the Indian Mission, said: "Genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding by recognizing the importance of communicating to the peoples of the world in their languages by bringing the common goals and ideals closer to the people." (Indo Asian News Service; October 20, 2018)

Great thought. Great statement. We would applaud Mr. Misra if not for the hypocrisy of this statement. While this representative of the Indian government is talking of "multilingualism promoting unity in diversity and international understanding by recognizing the importance of communicating to the peoples of the world in their languages" in order to get Hindi into United Nations, Indian government is doing exactly the opposite within India.

India is multilingual country. Indian constitution lists 22 languages. Instead of promoting all these languages, Indian government is trying to make all languages except Hindi useless by promoting Hindi use wherever possible and ignoring state languages even within the respective states. For example, Kannada is the state language of Karnataka State. Most ATMs at Indian government owned banks do not allow transactions in Kannada but English and Hindi only. Most bank forms are in Hindi and English only even in non-Hindi states. Warning messages on railway compartments are in Hindi and English only. There are many more examples of ignoring state languages and thrusting Hindi everywhere, thus trying to artificially create a uni-lingual country - where Hindi would reign supreme.

One more example of India's despicable record of promoting uni-lingualism. Indian Coastguard personnel are not required to know the language of the coastal state where they are posted. In March 2017, a Tamil Nadu fisherman was dying in the sea and fellow fishermen called the nearby coastguard vessel. No one in the coastguard ship understood the local language Tamil and the fisherman died [Volume 15, Chapter 5]. Indian government preaching the importance of multilingualism in order to push Hindi in the United Nations is despicable. India, practice multilingualism first within India.

The only reason Indian government grudgingly uses English in addition to Hindi is because of the blood sacrifice the people of Tamil Nadu State made in 1965 against Hindi

imposition; sixty three unarmed protesters were shot and killed by police and army in a two-weeks period [Volume 3; Chapter 1]. Instead of the multilingualism India is preaching to UN, Indian government is hell-bent on making non-Hindi languages useless outside people's homes as described in the previous two paragraphs.

A Parliamentary Sub-Committee Meeting was held in Mysore (Karnataka State) on July 5, 2008 to review the "implementation" of Hindi as per the official language policy. There was a large board written in Kannada that said, "Use Kannada at home, use Rajabhasha in office". They are referring to Hindi as the Rajabhasha. If you use a language only at home and nowhere else, be it government offices or private offices, the language would simply become useless and wither away. This is what India wants within the country but wants United Nations to use Hindi. **I, a non-Hindi citizen of India, oppose it until India stops Hindi imposition and practices multilingualism within the country.**

5. Opposition to Hindi Imposition in India

Indian government will tell the United Nations that over a billion people want Hindi in UN. Not true. Over sixty percent of that billion people are non-Hindi peoples and they feel no pride or get any benefit in the use of Hindi in United Nations. In fact, many states do not want Hindi in their states. We mentioned opposition to Hindi in National Highways milestones and Bengaluru Metro name boards in Section 2. Tamil Nadu state government banned Hindi from its schools in 1968 and it remains in effect as of now (2018). There are periodic pleas and protests to hold all central government recruitment examinations in all 22 languages (instead of Hindi and English) with India turning a deaf ear. This language policy discriminates against non-Hindi job seekers. [A few examinations are held in some non-Hindi languages also.]

There are periodic protests even today against Hindi imposition in southern and eastern states of India. On Indian Independence Day in 2015, the tweet (twitter) #StopHindiImposition trended Number 10 for all of India (Hindi and non-Hindi states) and was Number One in major non-Hindi cities.

Do not let India fool you saying that many non-Hindi students are learning Hindi. Indian government is a major employer and they pay more than state government jobs. All Indian government employees have to learn Hindi within the first year. A 2003 Indian Railways memorandum to managers said that employees not attending Hindi training classes "should be severely dealt with". **Circus tigers do tricks, not because they love to do tricks but because they are punished otherwise.** Students are learning Hindi because learning Hindi even before they have the job makes thing easier for them on the job.

If a vote is held today, over 99% non-Hindi peoples would vote against Indian government using Hindi in their states. Will Indian government accept the challenge and hold a vote among non-Hindi peoples? They are about 60% of the population of India.

6. A Request to the United Nations

We know that United Nations does not interfere in the internal affairs of a member country. We know that the language issue is an internal affair. But United Nations should not elevate Hindi in the international arena while Indian government is suppressing the language rights of its people by imposing Hindi.

Hold India to its own words to United Nations General Assembly committee dealing with special political matters, "Genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding by recognizing the importance of communicating to the peoples of the world in their languages by bringing the common goals and ideals closer to the people." Just change "international" to "national" and "people of the world" to "people of India".

"Genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and national understanding by recognizing the importance of communicating to the peoples of India in their languages by bringing the common goals and ideals closer to the people." Ask India to implement this policy and then come to United Nations to add Hindi to twitter feeds, guided tours and other matters.

7. What We, the People, Can Do?

An Internet article like this will get only limited readership and publicity. Public statements from non-Hindi Indian politicians would get far wider publicity. When Mr. Sashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament from the South Indian State of Kerala, spoke against making Hindi an official language of the UN (Indian Express; January 6, 2018), it got wide coverage in major newspapers and television all over India.

I urge our readers to write their politicians. Also write to United Nations General Secretary not to use Hindi in any way in the United Nations until India gives equal status to all Indian languages. Also express your views on social media.

(First Published: December 2018)

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India is for Hindi Speakers Only

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The Two Golden Ages of Tamil Nadu and the Current Dark Days

Lighter Side of Life and Politics in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Language

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Books in Tamil

தமிழ்நாட்டின் இரு பொற்காலங்களும், இன்றைய இருள் காலமும் (வரலாறு) - தஞ்சை நலங்கிள்ளி
The Two Golden Ages of Tamil Nadu and the Current Dark Days (History) (Tamil book) by Thanjai Nalankilli

தமிழ்நாடு இந்தி எதிர்ப்புப் போராட்டங்களும், தீக்குளிப்புகளும் - தஞ்சை நலங்கிள்ளி
Tamil Nadu Anti-Hindi Agitations and Self-Immolations (Tamil book) by Thanjai Nalankilli

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